survey was commissioned by the Government of India and conducted by Social and Research Institute, a unit of International Marketing Research Bureau (SRI-IMRB) in July-August, 2005 with the aim of assessing the number of out-of-school children across the country.

As per the findings of the survey, the number of out of school children in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh was 31.77 lakhs and 29.95 lakhs respectively. This number has now reduced to 21.20 lakhs in Bihar and 7.86 lakhs in Uttar Pradesh as per State Reports as of March, 2007.

Context specific interventions for children who are "hard to reach" such as bridge courses, learning centres with flexible timings, seasonal hostels, home based education, mobile schools, have been taken up under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Programme. The Government of India has undertaken 19 orientation and capacity building workshops with States/UTs with illustrative case studies of good practices, to encourage State/districts to do such context specific interventions.

Certificates/degrees of IIPM

2802. SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the value of certificates/degrees issued by Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) for applying for a post in Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) or Government's departments;

(b) whether conducting of MBA/BBA courses without the approval of AICTE and UGC is illegal; and

(c) if so, the legal recourse Government propose to take against IIPM, instead of issuing advisory to students?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) Any qualification awarded by the said institution has no value under the relevant laws in force.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The AICTE has issued show cause notice to the Indian Institute of Planning and Management (IIPM) and placed the name of the above institution in the list of unapproved technical institutions running technical courses without approval of AICTE. The IIPM has also filed a writ petition before the Hon'ble Delhi High Court challenging the show cause notice issued by the AICTE. The matter is *sub-judice*.

Seats in IIMs and IITs

†2803. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of seats available in IIMs and IITs at present;

(b) whether the number of seats has been increased to accommodate the backward castes;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.